A QUIP FOR AN VPSTART COVRTIER:

OR,

A quaint Diſpute betweene Velvet-breeches and Cloth-breeches.

Wherein is plainely ſet downe the diſorders in all Eſtates and Trades.

By ROBERT GREENE.

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TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFVLL, THOMAS BVRNABY *Esquire*; ROBERT GREENE wisheth hearts ease, and Heavens blisse.

SIR, after I had ended this Quip for an Vpstart Courtier, containing a quaint dispute betweene Cloth-breeches, and Velvet-breeches; wherein under a Dreame I shaddowed the abuses that Pride had bred in England, *how it had infected the Court with aspiring Envie, the Citie with griping Covetousneße, and the Countrey with contempt and disdaine: How since men placed their delights in proud lookes, and brave attire, Hospitalitie was left off, Neighbourhood was exiled, Conscience was scoft at, and Charity lay frozen in the streets: How upstart Gentlemen for the maintenance of that their fathers neuer lookt after, raised Rents, rackt their Tenants, and imposed great Fines; I stood in amaze to whom I should dedicate my Labours; knowing I should bee bitten*

by many, ſithence I haue toucht many, and therefore need ſome worthy Patron, vnder whoſe wings I might ſhroud my ſelfe from goodman finde-fault. At laſt I cald to mind your Worſhip, and thought you the fitteſt of all my friends, both for the duty I owe, and the worſhipfull qualities you are indued withall, as alſo for that all Northamptonſhire reports how you are a father of the poore, a ſupporter of ancient Hoſpitality, an enemy to Pride, and to bee ſhort, a maintainer of Cloth-breeches (I meane of the old and worthy cuſtomes of the Gentility and Yeomanry of England.) *Induced by theſe reaſons, I humbly preſent this Pamphlet to your Worſhip, onely crauing you will accept it as courteouſly as I preſent it dutifully, and then I haue the end of my deſire: and ſo reſting in hope of your fauourable acceptance, I humbly take my leaue.*

Your dutifull adopted Sonne.

ROBERT GREENE.

TO THE GENTLEMEN *Readers, Health.*

GEntle Gentlemen, I hope, Cloth-breeches ſhall find your gentle Cenſures of this homely Apologie of his ancient Prerogatives, ſith though he ſpeakes againſt Velvet-breeches which you weare; yet he twits not the Weed, but the Vice; not the Apparell when 'tis worthily worne, but the unworthy perſon that weares it; who ſprang of a Peſant, will uſe any ſiniſter meanes to clime to preferment; being then ſo proud, as the foppe forgets like the Aſſe, that a Mule was his Father. For ancient Gentility, and Yeomanry, Cloth-breeches attempteth this quarrell, and hopes of their favour. For Vpſtarts he is halfe careleſſe; and the more, becauſe hee knowes whatſoever ſome thinke privately, they will be no publike Carpers: leſt by kicking where they are toucht, they bewray their gal d backs to the world, and by ſtarting up to find fault, prove themſelves upſtarts, and fooles. So then poore Cloth-breeches ſets downe his reſt on the

cour-

courteſie of gentle Gentlemen, and bold Yeomen, that they will ſuffer him to take no wrong. But ſuppoſe the worſt, that hee ſhould be frown'd at, and that ſuch Occupations as hee hath upon conſcience diſcarded from the Iurie, ſhould commence an action of unkindneſſe againſt him, hee'l prove it not to hold plea; becauſe all the debate was but a dreame. And ſo hoping all men will merrily take it, hee ſtands ſolemnly leaning on his Pike-ſtaffe, till he heare what you conceive of him, for being ſo peremptory. If well, hee ſweares to cracke his hoſe at the knees to quite your courteſie. If hardly, he hath vowed that whatſoever he dreames, never to blab it againe, and ſo hee wiſheth me humbly to bid you farewell.

A QVIP FOR AN VPSTART COVRTIER.

IT was iuſt at that time when the Cuckolds Quirriſter began to bewray April Gentlemen, with his never changed notes, that I damped with melancholy humour, went into the fields to chere up my wits with the freſh ayre: where ſolitary ſeeking to ſolace my ſelfe, I fell in a dreame, and in that drowſie ſlumber, I wandred into a Vale all tapiſtred with ſweet and choice flowers, there grew many ſimples, whoſe vertues taught men to be ſubtill, and to thinke nature by her weeds warn'd men to be warie, and by their ſecret properties to check wanton and ſenſuall imperfections. Amongſt the reſt, there was the yellow Daffadil, a flower fit for iealous Dotterils, who through the beauty of their honeſt wives grow ſuſpitious, and ſo prove themſelves in the end Cuckold Heretiks: there budded out the checkered (Paunſie) or partly coloured Hearts-eaſe, an herbe ſeldome ſeene, either of ſuch men as are wedded to ſhrewes, or of ſuch women that have haſty husbands, yet there it grew, as I ſtept to gather it, it ſlipt from me like Tantalus fruit that faiſes their maſter. At laſt, wondring at this ſecret quality, I learned that none can weare it, be they Kings, but ſuch as deſire no more than they are borne to, nor have their wiſhes above their fortunes. Upon a Banke bordering by, grew womens weeds, Fenell. I meane for flatterers, fit generally for that Sexe, ſith whiſle they are Maidens, they wiſh wantonly: while they are

wives, they will wilfully, while they are widowes, they would willingly: & yet all these proud desires are but close dissemblings. Here adioyning sprouted out the Courtiers comfort, Time: An herb that many stumble on, and yet overslip, whose ranke sauour & thick leaues haue this peculiar property, to make a Snaile, if she taste of the say, as swift as a swallow; yet ioyned with this prejudice, that if she clime too hastily, she falls too suddenly. Heere thought I saw divers yong Courtiers tread upon it with high disdain, but as they past away, an Adder lurking there, bit them by the heeles that they wept: and then I might perceiue certaine Clownes in clowted shoone gather it, and eat of it with greedinesse: which no sooner was sunke into their mawes, but they were metamorphosed, and lookt as proudly, though Peasants, as if they had been borne to be Princes companions.

Amongst the rest of these changelings whom the taste of time had thus altered, there were some that lifted their heads so high, as if they had been bred to looke no lower than Stars: they thought *Nolí altum sapere* was rather the saying of a fole, than the censure of a Philosopher, and therefore stretcht themselues on their tiptoes, as if they had been a kinsred to the Lord Tiptoft, and began to disdain their equals, scorne their inferiours, and eben their betters, forgetting now that time had taught them to say Passe: how before they had plaid the Clarkes part to say amen to the Priest. Tush, then they were not so little as Gentlemen, and their owne conceit was the Herauld to blazon their discent, from an old house, whose great Grandfathers would have been glad of a new Cottage to hide their heads in. Yet as the Peacock wrapt in the pride of his beautious feathers is knowne to be but a dunghill bird by his foule feet: so though the high lookes, and costly suites, argue to the eyes of the world they were Cavaliers of great Worship: yet the churlish illiberality of their minds, bewraid their fathers were not above three pounds in the Kings bookes at a Subsidie: but as these upstart changelings went strouting like Philopolimorphides the braggart in Plautus, they lookt so proudly at the same, that they stumbled on a bed of Rue, that grew at the bottome of the Banke where the time was planted, which fall upon the dew of so bitter an herbe, taught them, that such proud Peacocks as ouerhastily out-runne their fortunes, at last too speedily fall to repentance, and yet some of them smil'd and said, Rue was called Herbe-grace,

which

which though they scorned in their youth, they might weare in their age, and it was never too late to say *Miserere*. As thus I stood musing at this time-borne brood, they vanisht away like Cadmus copesmates, that sprang up of Vipers teeth: so that casting mine eye aside after them, I saw where a crue of all estates were gathering flowers, what kind they were of I knew not: but precious I ghesse them, in that they pluckt them with greedinesse: so that I drew towards them to be partaker of their profits: comming neerer, I might see the weed they so wrangled for, was a little dapper flower like a ground Hunnisuckle, called Thrift, praised generally of all, but practised for distillation but of few: amongst the crue that seemed covetous of this herb, there was a troope of old gray-beards in Velvet, Sattin, & Worsted iackets, that stooped as nimbly to plucke it up by the roots, as if their ioynts had been suppled in the oyle of Misers skins: they spared no labour and paines to get and gather; and what they got, they gave to certaine young boyes and girles that stood behind them, with their skirts and laps open to receive it: among whom some scattered it as fast as their fathers gathered it, wasting and spoyling it at their pleasure, which their fathers got with labour.

I thought them to be some Herbalists, or some Apothecaries, that had imployed such paines to extract some rare quintessence out of this flower: but one standing by, told me they were Cormorants & Usurers that gathered it to fill their coffers with. And whereto (qd. I) is it precious? what is the vertue of it? Mary (q. he) to qualifie the heat of insatiable minds, that like the Serpent Dipsas never drinketh enough, till they are so full, they burst. Why then, said I, the Devill burst them all: & with that I fell into a great laughter, to see certain Italianate Cantes, humorous Cavalliers, youthfull Gentlemen, and *Inamorati gagliardi*, that scornefully pluckt of it, and wore it a while, as if they were weary of it, & at last left it as too base a flower to put in their Nosegayes. Others that seemed *Homini di grand istim*. by their looks and their walks gathered earnestly, and did pocket it up, as if they meant to keep it carefully: but as they were carrying it away, there met them a troope of nice wantons, faire women, that like to Lamiæ had faces like Angels, eyes like stars, brests like the golden front in the Hesperides: but from the middle downwards their shapes like serpents. These with Syren-like allurement so en-

tled these quaint Squires, that they bestowed all their flowers upon them for favours, they themselves walking home by beggers bush for a penance. Amongst this crue, were Lawyers, and they gathered the Devill and all; but poore Poets were thrust backe, and could not be suffered to have one handful to put amongst their withered garlands of Bayes, to make them glorious. But Hob and Iohn of the country, they kept in churlishly, in their high startups, and gathered whole sackfuls: insomuch they wore besomes of Thrift in their Hats like fore-horses, or the lusty Gallants in a Morice dance: seeing the crue thus to wrangle for so paltry a weed, I went alone to take one of all the other fragrant flowers that diapred this Valley; there by, I saw the Batchelors buttons, whose vertue is to make wanton Maidens weepe, when they have worne it forty weekes under their aprons for a favour.

Next them grew the dissembling Daffie, to warn such light of love wenches, not to trust every faire promise that such amorous Batchelors make them: but sweet smels breed bitter repentance. Hard by grew the true lovers Primrose, whose kind savour wisheth men to be faithfull, and women courteous. Alongst in a border grew Maidenhaire fit for modest Maidens to behold; and immodest to blush at, because it praiseth the one for their naturall Tresses, and condemneth the other for their beastly and counterfeit Perriwigs: there was the gentle Gilliflower, that wives should weare, if they were not too froward; and loyall Lavender, but that was full of Cuckow-spittles, to shew that womens light thoughts make their husbands heavy heads: there were sweet Lillies Cods plenty; which shewed faire Virgins need not weepe for lovers; store of Balme which could cure strange wounds; only not that wound which women receive when they lose their Maidenheads: for no herb hath vertue enough to scrape out that blot, and therefore it is the greater blemish. Infinit were the flowers beside that beautified the Valley, that to know their names and operations, I needed some curious Herball, but I passe them over as needlesse, sith the vision of their vertues was but a dreame, and therefore I wish no man to hold any discourse herein authenticall: yet thus much I must say for a parting blow, that at the lower end of the dale I saw a great many of women using high words to their husbands, some striving for the Breeches, other, to have the last word, some fretting,

ting, they could not find a knot in a rush, others striving whether it were wooll or haire the Goat bare: questioning with one that I met, why these women were so cholericke; he like a scoffing fellow pointed to a bush of Nettles, I not willing to be satisfied by signes, asked him what he meant thereby. Marry (quoth he) all these women that you heare brawling frowning, and scolding thus, have severally pist on this bush of Nettles, and the vertue of them is to force a woman that waters them, to be as peevish for a whole day, and as walpish as if she had beene stung in the brow with a hornet. Well, I smil'd at this, and left the company to seeke further, when in the twinkling of an eye I was left alone the Valley cleered of all company and I a distressed man, desirous to wander out of that solitary place to seeke good consorts, and bone companions to passe away the day withall. And thus I walked forward, seeking up the hill, I was driven halfe into a maze with the imagination of a strange wonder which fell out thus: me thought I saw an uncouth headlesse thing come pacing downe the hill, stepping so proudly with such a Geometricall grace, as if some artificiall braggert had resolved to measure the world with his paces: I could not descry it to be a man, although it had motion, for that it wanted a body; yet seeing legges and hose, I supposed it to be some Monster, nourisht up in those desarts: at last as it drew more nigh unto me, I might perceive that it was a very palling costly paire of Velvet-breeches, whose panes being made of the chiefest Neapolitane stuff, was drawne out with the best Spanish Sattin, and marvellous curiously over-whipt with gold twist, interseamed with knots of Pearle: the Netherstocke was of the purest Granado silke; no cost was spared to set out these costly Breeches, who had girt unto them a Rapier and Dagger gilt, point pendant, as quaintly as if some curious Florentine had tricht them up, to square it up and downe the streets before his Mistresse. As these Breeches were exceeding sumptuous to the eye, so were they passing pompous in their gestures; for they strouted up and downe the Valley as proudly as though they had there appointed to act some desperate combate.

Blame me not if I were driven into a muse with this most monstrous sight, to see in that place such a strange headlesse Courtier setting up and downe like the Usher of a Fence-schole about to play

his Prize, when I deeme never in any age such a wonderfull object fortuned unto any man before. Well, the greater dumpe this Novelty drave me into, the more desire I had to see what event would follow: whereupon looking about to see if that any more company would come, I might perceive from the top of the other hill, another paire of Breeches more soberly marching, and with a softer pace, as if they were not too hasty, and yet would keep promise nevertheless at the place appointed. As soone as they were come into the valley, I saw they were a plaine paire of Cloth-breeches, without either welt or gard, streight to the thigh, of white Kersie, without a slop, the netherstocke of the same, sewed to above the knee, and onely seamed with a little country blue, such as in Dibus olim our great Grandfathers wore, when neighbourhood and hospitality had banisht Pride out of England. Nor were these plaine breeches weaponlesse; for they had a good sowre Bat with a Pike in the end, able to lay on load enough, if the heart were answerable to the weapon, and upon this staffe pitcht downe upon the ground, Cloth-breeches stood solemnly leaning, as if they meant not to start, but to answer to the uttermost whatsoever in that place might be objected. Loking upon these two, I might perceive by the pride of the one, and homely resolution of the other, that this their meeting would grow to some dangerous conflict: and therfore to prevent the fatall issue of such a pretended quarrell, I stept betweene them both, when Velvet-breeches greeted Cloth-breeches with this salutation: Proud and insolent Pesant how darest thou without leave, or low reverence, presse into the place whither I am come for to dispost my selfe? Art thou not afraid, thy high presumption should summon me to displeasure, and so force me draw my Rapier, which is never unsheathed, but it turnes into the Scabbard with a triumph of mine enemies blood? Bold bapard, avaunt, beard me not to my face; for this time I pardon thy folly, and grant thy legges leave to carry away thy life. Cloth-breeches nothing amazed at this bravado, bending his staffe, as if he meant (if he were wronged) to bestow his benison, with a scornfull kind of smiling, made this smoth reply: Mary gip, goodman upstart, who made your father a Gentleman? soft fire makes sweet Malt, the curtest Cow hath the shortest hornes, and a brawling curre, of all bites the least: alas, good sir, are you so fine that no man may be your fellow? I pray you, what difference is betweene

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you and me, but in the cost and the making: though you be never so richly dawbd with Gold, and powderd with Pearle, yet you are but a case for the Buttocks, and a cover for the baleft part of a mans body no more than I, the greatest pre-eminence is in the garnishing, and thereof you are proud, but come to the true use wewere appointed to, my honour is more than thine, for I belong to the old ancient yeomanry, yea, and gentility, the fathers, and thou to a company of proud and unmannerly upstarts, the sonnes. At this, Velvet brée hes storm'd and said, Why, thou beggers brat, descended from the riversion of base poverty, is thy insolency so great, to make comparison with me, whose difference is as great as the brightnesse of the Sun, and the slender light of a candle? I (pure I make) am sprung from the ancient Romans, born in Italy, the mistresse of the world for chivalry, cald into England from my native home (where I was famous) to honor your country and yong Gentlemen here in England with my countenance, where I am holden in high regard, that I can presse into the presence, when thou pore soule shalt with cap and knée beg leave of the Porter to enter; and I sit e dine with the Nobility, when thou art faine to wait for the reversion of the Almes basket: I am admitted boldly to tell my tale, when thou art fain to sue by means of supplication, and that e thou so so little regarded that most commonly it never comes to the Princes hand, but dies imprisoned in some obscure pocket: Sith then there is such difference betwen our estates, cease to urge my patience with thy insolent presumption. Cloth brèches as brefe as he was proud, swore by the pike of his staffe, that his choplogicke was not worth a pin, and that he would turne his own weapon unto his bosome thus: Why Signior Glorioso (quhe) though I have not such glosing phrase to trick out my speeches withall as you, yet I will come over your fallowes with this bad Rhethoricke: I pray you Monsieur Malapert, are you therefore my superiour, because you are taken up with Gentlemen, e I with the yeomanry? Doth true vertue consist in riches, or humanity in wealth? is ancient honour tied to outward bravery? or not rather true Nobility, a mind excellently qualified with rare vertues? I will teach thee a lesson worth the hearing, proud princocks, how Gentility first sprung up, I will not forget the old wives Logicke, When *Adam* delv'd and *Eve* span, who was then a Gentleman? but I tell thee, after

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the generall Flood, that there was no more men upon the earth but Noe and his three sonnes, and that Cham had wickedly discovered his fathers secrets, then grew the division of estates thus: The Church was figured in Sem, Gentility in Iapheth, and labour and drudgerie in Cham: Sem being chaste and holy, Iapheth learned and valiant, Cham churlish and servile, yet did not the curse extend so farre upon Cham, nor the blessing upon Iapheth; but if the one altered his nature, and became either endued with learning or valour, he might be a Gentleman, or if the other degenerated from his ancient vertues, he might be held a Peasant: whereupon Noe inferred that Gentility grew not onely by propagation of nature, but by perfection of qualities. Then is your worship wide that boast of your worth for your gold, and pearle, sith Cucullus non facit Monachum, nor a Velvet flop makes a sloven a Gentleman: And whereas thou saist thou wert borne in Italy, and called hither by our Courtiers, him may we curse that brought thee first into England: for thou camest not alone, but accompanied with a multitude of abominable vices hanging to thy bumbast nothing but infectious abuses, as vaine-glory, selfe-love, Sodomy, and strange poisonings, wherewith thou hast infected this glorious Iland: yea insolent braggart, thou hast defiled thine owne nest, and fatall was the day of thy birth: for since the time of thy hatching in Italy, as then famous for Chivalry and Learning, the Imperiall state through thy pride hath decaped, and thou hast like the yong Pellican peckt at thy mothers breast with thy presumption, causing them to lose that their fore-fathers with true honour conquered: so hast thou beene the ruine of the Romane Empire, and now fatally art thou come into England, to attempt here the like subversion. Whereas thou dost boast that I am little regarded, where thou art highly accounted of, and hast sufferance to presse into the presence, when I am for my simplenesse shut out of doore: I grant thy allegation in part, but not in whole, for men of high wisedome and honour measure not men by the outward shew of bravery, but by the inward worth and honesty: and so though I am disdained of a fe w overweening soles, I am valued as well as thy selfe with the wise. In that thou saist thou canst speake when I sue by supplication: I grant it, but the Tale thou tell'st, is to the ruine of the poore: for comming into high favour with an impudent face, what Farme is there expi-

red,

red, whose Lease thou dost not begge? what forfeit of penall Statutes? what concealed Lands can overslip thee? yea rather than thy bravery should faile, begge powling pence for the very smoake that comes out of poore mens chimneys: shamest thou not, outlandish Upstart, to heare me discourse thy imperfections? get thee home againe into thy owne country, and let mee as I was wont, live famous in my native home in England, where I was borne and bred, yea, and bearded Cæsar thy countryman, till he compast the conquest by Treason. The right and Title in this country, base brat (quoth Velvet-breeches?) now authority favours me, I am admitted Vicerey, and I will make thee doe me homage, and confesse that thou holdst thy being and residence in my Land, from the gracious favour of my sufferance: and with that he laid hold on the hilts of his Rapier, and Cloth-breeches betake him to his Sattle, when I stepping betwixt them parted them thus. Why, what meane ye? will you decide your Controversies by blowes, when you may debate it by reason? this is a Land of peace, governed by true Justiciaries, and honourable Magistrates, where you shall have equity without partiality: and therefore listen to mee, and discusse the matter by law: your quarrells, whether of you are most ancient, and most worthy. You Sir, boast of your Country and Parentage; he of his native birth in England: you claime all, hee would have but his owne, both plead an absolute Title of residence in this Country: then must the course betweene you be trespasse of disseison, frank tenement: you Velvet-breeches of in that you claime the first Title, you shall be plaintiffe, and plead a trespasse or disseison done you by Cloth-Breeches, so shall it bee brought to a Jury, and tryed by a verdict of twelve, or foure and twenty. Tush, tush, quoth Velvet breeches, I neither like to bee Plaintiffe, nor yet allow of a Jury, for they may be partiall, and so condemne me in mine owne action: for the country Swaines cannot value of my worth, nor can mine Honours come within the compasse of their base wits: because I am a stranger in this Land, and but here lately arrived, they will hold me as an Upstart, and so lightly esteeme of my worthinesse: and for my Adversary is their countryman, and lesse chargeable, he shall have the Law mitigated, if a Jury of Hinds or Peasants should bee impannelled: if ancient Gentlemen, Yeomen, or plaine Syntsters should be of the Quest, I

were sure to lose the day, because they loath me, in that I have perswaded so many Landlords, for the maintenance of my bravery, to raise their rents. Do you seeke a knot in a Rush (quoth I) you need not doubt of that: for whom you distrust and thinke not indifferent, him you upon cause manifested, challenge from your Jury. If your law allow such large favour (quoth Velvet-breeches) I am content my Title be tryed by a Jury: and therefore let mine Adversary plead me, Nul tort, Nul disseisin, so Cloth-breeches was content with this, and so they both agreed I should be Judge, and Juror in this Controversie: whereupon I willed them to say for themselves what they could, that I might discourse to the Jury, what reasons they alledged of their Titles: then Velvet-breeches began thus: I cannot but grieve that I should be thus out-fac'd with a Carters weed, onely fit for husbandry, seeing I am the originall of all honourable endevours. To what end doth youth bestow their wits on Law, Physicke, or Theologie, were it not the end they aime at, is the wearing of mee, and winning of preferment? Honour nourisheth Art, and for the regard of dignity, doe learned men strive to exceed in their faculty.

Impiger extremos currit Mercator ad Indos,
Per mare, per saxa, &c.

What drives the Merchants to seeke forreine Marts, to venter their goods and hazzard their lives? not if still the end of their travell were a paire of Cloth-breeches: no, Velvet costly attire, curious and quaint apparell, is the spur that pricks them forward to attempt such danger. Doth not the Souldier fight to be brave? the Lawyer study to countenance himselfe with cost: the Artificer takes paines onely for my sake, that wearing mee, he may bragge it amongst the best. What credit carries he now adayes that goes pind up in a Cloth breech? who will keepe him company that thinks well of himselfe unlesse he use the simple slave to make cleane his shoone? the worldes are chang'd, and men are growne to more wit, and their minds to aspire after more honorable thoughts: they were Dunces in *Diebus illis*, they had not the true use of Gentility, and therefore they lived meanely, and dyed obscurely: but now mens capacities are refined, time hath set a new edge on Gentlemens humors, and they live them as they should be, not like gluttons, as their fathers

did,

did, in chines of Beefe, and almes to the poore: but in Velvets, Sattins, cloth of Gold, Pearle, pea, Pearle lace, which scarce Caligula wore on his birth-day: & to this honourable humour have I brought these Gentlemen since I came from Italy. What is the end of service to a man, but to countenance himselfe, and credit his Master with brave suits? the scurvie Taylers and Ostlers, *fex populi*, fill pots, and rub horse-heeles, to prancke themselves with my glory: alas, were it not to weare me, why should so many apply themselves to extraordinary idlenesse? Beside, I make soules be reverenc'd, and thought wise among the common sort: I am a severe censor to such as offend the law; provided there be a penalty annext, that may bring in some profit: yea, by me, the chiefest part of this Realme is governed, and therefore I refer my Title to the verdit of any men of iudgment. To this mildly Cloth-breeches answered thus:

As I have had allwayes that honest humour in mee, to measure all Estates by their Vertues, not by their Apparell: so did I never grudge at the bravery of any, whom birth, time, place, or dignitie made worthy of such costly ornaments: but if by the favour of their Prince, and their owne deserts, they merited them, I held both lawfull, and commendable, to answer their degrees in apparell, correspondent unto their dignities: I am not so precise, directly to inveigh against the use of Velvet, either in breeches, or in other sutes, nor will I have men goe like Iohn Baptist, in coats of Camels haire, Let Princes have their Diademes, and Cæsar what is due to Cæsar: Let Noblemen goe as their birthes require, and Gentlemen as they are borne, or beare office: I speake in mine owne defence, for the ancient Gentility, and Yeomanry of England, and inveigh against none, but such malapert Upstarts, as raised up from the Plough, or advanced for their Italian devices, or for their witlesse wealth, covet in bravery to match, nay, to exceed the greatest Noblemen in this Land.

But leaving this digression, Monsieur Velvet-breeches, againe to the particulars of your fond allegation. Whereas you affirme your selfe to be both originall and finall end of Learning: alas, proud prince, you perch a bow too high; did all the Philosophers beat their braines, and busie their wits to weare Velvet-breeches? Why, both at that time thou wert unknowne, yea unborne, and all excelle in

apparell had in high contempt, and now in these dayes, all men of worth are taught by reading, that excesse is a great sinne: that pride is the first step to the downefall of shame. They study with Tully, that they may seeme borne for their Countries, as well as for themselves: The Divine to Justice, the Physician to discover the secrets of Gods wonders by working strange cures: to be briefe, the end of all being, is to know God, and not as your Worship, good Master Velvet-breeches wrests, to creepe into acquaintance.

I will not deny, but there be as fantasticall fooles as your selfe, that perhaps are puft up with such presuming thoughts, and ambitiously aime to tricke themselves in your Worships masking suites: but while such climbe for great honours, they often fall to great shames. It may bee thereupon you bring in *Honos alit artes*: but I ghesse your Masterships never tryed what true Honour meant, that trusse it up within the compasse of a paire of Velvet-breeches, and place it in the arrogancy of the heart: no, no, say honour is idolatry, for they make fooles of themselves, and Idols of their carkasses: but hee that valueth Honour so, shall reade a Lecture out of Apuleius his golden Asse, to learne him more wit. But now Sir, by your leave, a blow with your next Argument, which is, that Merchants hazard their goods and lives to be acquainted with your Mastership. Indeed you are wyse: for wise men frequent Marts for profit, not for pride, unlesse it be some that by wearing of Velvet-breeches and apparell too high for their calling, have proved Bankerupts in their youth, and have beene glad in their age to desire my acquaintance, and to trusse up their tayles in home-spunne Russet: whereas thou dost object the valour of hardy Souldiers to grow for the desire of brave apparell. 'Tis false, and I know if any were present, they would prove upon thy bones that thou wert a lyer: for their countries good, their Princes service, the defence of their friends, the hope of favour is the finall end of their resolutions: esteeming not onely them by the worlds glory, fickle, transitorie, and inconstant. Shall I fetch from thine owne Country, weapons to wound thy selfe withall? What sayest thou to Cincinnatus? was he not called to be Dictator from the Plough and after many victories? what, did he set up and downe the Court in costly Garments, and Velvet-breeches? No, hee despised dignity, contemned vaine-glory and pride,

and

and returned againe to his quiet contented life in the country. How much did Cajus Fabritius value their Numa Pompilius Scevola, Scipio, Epaminondas, Aristides? they held themselves worthies meat and counted pride vanitie, and yet thou art not ashamed to say, thou art the end of Souldiers worthy honour. I tell ther, sawcy Skip-iacke, it was as good and blessed a time here in England, when King Stephen wore a paire of Cloth breeches of a noble a paire, and thought them passing costly: then did he count Westminster-hall too little to be his dining Chamber. and his almes was not bare bones, in stead of broken meate, but lusty chines of Beefe fell into the poore mans Basket. Then Charity flourished in the Court, and young Courtiers strove to exceed one another in Vertue, not in bravery: they rode not with fannes to ward their faces from the winde, but with Burgant to resist the stroke of a Battle-axe: they could better exhort a Souldier to Armour, than court a Lady with Amorets: they caused the Trumpet to sound them points of Warre, not Poets to write them wanton Elegies of Love: they sought after honourable fame, but hunted not after fading Honour; which distinction, by the way take thus: There be some that seeke honour, and some are sought after by honour. Such Upstarts as fetch their Pedegree from their fathers ancient Leather Aprons and creepe into the Court with great humility; ready at the first Basciare li piedi di la vostra signiora, having gotten the countenance of some Nobleman, will straight bee a kinsman to Cadwaller, and sweare his great Grandmother was one of the Burgesses of the Parlament house, will at last streate by degrees into some credit by their double diligence, and then winde some worshipfull place as farre as a hungry Sow can smell a Sir reverence; and then with all their friends seeke day and night, with Coyne and countenance till they have got it. Others there bee, whom Honour it selfe seekes; and such be they whom vertue doth frame fit for that purpose, that rising by high deserts, as Learning, or Valour, merit more then either they looke for or their Prince hath any ease conveniently to bestow on them. Such Honour seekes, and they with a blushing conscience entertaine him, bee they never so high in favour, yet they begge no Office: as the shamelesse Upstart doth, that hath a hungry eye, to spy out an impudent face to lie, and a flattering

tongue to intreat for some voyde place of Worship, which little belonged to them, if the Prince intended to bestow Offices for vertue, not favour. Other, Sattin Velvet breeches, there be of your crue, that pinch their bellies to polish their backes; that keepe their mawes empty, to fill their purses; that have no shew of Gentility but a Velvet flop; who by polling or selling of Land that their father left, will bestow all to buy an Office about the Court, that they may bee worshipfull, extorting from the poore, to raise up their money that the base deceiving companions have laid out, to have an Office of some countenance and credit, wherein they may have of mee better than themselves, bee tearmed by the name of Worship. The last whom Vertue pleadeth for, and neither silver, gold, friends, nor favour advanceth, be men of great worth, such as are thought of Worship, and unwillingly entertaine her, rather vouchsafing proffered honour for their Countries cause, than for any proud opinion of hoped-for preferment.

Blessed are such Lands whose Officers are so placed, and where the Prince promoteth not for Coyne nor countenance, but for his worthy deserving vertues. But leaving this by-talke, me thought I heard you say, Signior Velvet-breeches, that you were the father of Mechanicall Arts; and Handi-crafts were found out to foster your bravery. In faith, good-man Goose-cappe, you that are come from the startups, and therefore is called an Upstart, *quasi*, start up from rlowted shoone, your lippes hung in your light, when you brought forth this Logicke: for I hope there is none so simple, but knowes that Handi-crafts and Occupations grew for necessity, not pride: that mens Inventions wared sharpe to profit the Common-wealth, not to pranke up themselves in bravery. I pray you, when Tubal-cain invented tempering of Metals, had he Velvet-breeches to weare? In sadnesse, where was your Worship when his brother found out the accords and discords of Musicke hidden in hell, and not yet thought on by the Devill, to cast forth as a bait to bring many proud soules to ruine?

Indeed, I cannot deny, but your Worship hath brought in deceit as a Journeyman into all companies, and made that a subtile craft, which while I was holden in estéeme, was but a simple mystery: now every trade hath his sleights, to flubber up his worke

to

to the eye, and to make it good to the sale, howsoever it proves in the wearing. The Shoo-maker cares not if his shooes hold the drawing on: the Taylor sowes with hot needle, and burnt thread. Tush, pride hath banisht conscience, and Velvet-breeches honesty, and every servile drudge must ruffle in his silkes, or else hee is not suteable.

The world was not so, *A principio*, for when Velvet was worne but in Kings caps, then conscience was not a Broome-man in Kent-street, but a Courtier: then the Farmer was content his sonne should hold the Plough, and live as he had done before: Beggers then feared to aspire, and the higher sort scorned to envie. Now every Lowt must have his sonne a Courtnoll: and those dunghill drudges wax so proud, that they will presume to weare on their feet, what Kings have worne on their heads. A Clownes sonne must be clapt in a Velvet Pantophle, and a Velvet Breech, though the presumptuous Asse be drown'd in the Mercers Booke, and make a convey of all his Lands to the Usurer for commodities: yea, the Fop must go like a Gallant for a while, although at last in his age hee begge. But indeed such yong youths, when the Broker hath blest them with Saint Needams crosse, fall then to privie lifts, and cozenages: and when their credit is utterly crackt, they practise some bad shift, and so come to a shamefull end.

Lastly, whereas thou saist thou art a severe censor to punish sins, as austere as Cato, to correct vice, of truth I hold thee so in penall Statutes when thou hast begged the forfeit of the Prince: but such correction is open extortion, and oppression of the poore, nor can I compare it better, Master Velvet-breech, than to the Wolfe chastising the Lambe, for disturbing the Fountaine, or the Devill casting forth Deuils, through the power of Belzebub. And thus much, courteous Sir, I have said, to display the follies of mine Adversary, and to shew the right of mine owne interest. Why, then quoth I, if you haue both said, it resteth but that wee had some to empannell vpon a Jury, and then no doubt, but the verdict would soone be given on the one side. As thus I was talking to them, I might see comming downe the Hill a brave dapper Dicke, quaintly attired in Velvet, and Sattin, and a Cloake of cloth rash, with a Cambricke Ruffe as smoothly set, and he as neatly spundged, as if he had beene a

Bride-

Bridegroome: onely I gest by his pase a-farre off, hée should bée a Taylor: his head was holden up so pert, and his legges shackle-ham'd, as if his knées had béene laced to his Thighes with points. Comming more néere indéed, I spied a Taylors Morice pike on his brest, a Spanish néedle, and then I fitted my Salutations, not to his sutes, but to his Trade, and incountred him by a thread-bare courtesie, as if I had not knowne him, and asked him of what occupation he was? A Taylor, quoth he. Marry then, my friend, quoth I, you are the more welcome: for here is a great quarrell growne betwixt Velvet-bréeches, and Cloth-bréeches, for their prerogative in England: the matter is growne to an issue, there must a Jury bee empannelled: and I would desire and intreat you to bée one of the Quest.

Not so, quoth Cloth-bréeches, I challenge him. And why quoth I? What reason have you? doth hée not make them both? Yes, quoth he, but his gaines is not alike: alas, by mée he getteth small, onely hée is paid for his workman-ship, unlesse by misfortune his shéeres slip awry, and then his vailes is but a shred of home-spun Cloth, whereas in making of Velvet-bréeches, where there is required Silke, Lace, Cloth of Gold, of Silver, and such costly stuffe, to welt, guard, whip, stitch, edge, face, and draw out, that the Vailes of one Velvet-bréech, is more than twenty paire of mine. I hope there is no Taylor so precise, but he can play the Cooke, and licke his owne fingers: though he looke up to Heaven, yet he can cast large shreads of such rich stuffe into Hell under his shop-bord. Beside, hée sets downe like the Clarke of the Checke, a large Bill of reckonings, which for hée kéepes long in his pocket, he so powders for stinking, that the yong Upstart that néeds it, féeles it salt in his stomacke a month after. Beside, Sir, Velvet-bréeches hath advanst him: for whereas in my time hée was counted but good-man Taylor, now he is growne since Velvet-bréeches came in, to be called a Marchant, or Gentleman Marchant Taylor, giving Armes, and the Holy Lambe in his Crest; where before he had no other cognizance, but a plaine Spanish Néedle, with a Welsh Cricket on the top: sith then his gaine is so great, and his honour so advanc't by Velvet-bréeches, I will not trust his conscience, nor shall hée come upon my Jury.

Indéed

Indeed you have some reason quoth I, but perhaps the Taylor doth this upon meere devotion, to punish pride: and having no other authority, nor meane, thinkes it best to pinch them by the purse, and make them pay well, as to aske them twice so much like Lace, and other stuffe, as would suffice, and yet to over-reach my young Master with a Bill of reckonings, that will make him scratch where it itcheth not. Herein I hold the Taylor for a necessary member, to teach yong novices the way to weeping crosse: that when they have wasted what their fathers left them by pride, they may grow sparing and humble by inferred poverty: and by this reason the Taylor after his fashion exalteth the poore, and pulleth downe the proud: for of a wealthy Esquires sonne, he makes a thread-bare Begger: and of a scornefull Taylor, he lets up an Upstart scurvy Gentleman. Yet seeing you have made a reasonable challenge to him, the Taylor shall be none of the Quest.

As I bade him stand by, there was comming along the Hallie towards us, a square set fellow, well fed, and as briskly apparelled, in a black Taffata doublet and a spruce Leather Jerken, with Christall buttons, a Cloake lac't afore with Velvet, and a Coventry Cap of the finest wooll: his face something Ruby blush, cherry-cheeked, like a shred of Scarlet, or a little darker, like the Lees of old Claret Wine: a nose autem nose, purpled preciously with Pearle and Stone, like a counterfeit worke, and betweene the filthy reumicast of his bloodshotten snowt, there appeared small holes, whereat Wormes heads peeped, as if they meant by their appearance to preach and shew the antiquitie and ancientrie of his house.

This fiery lac't Churle had upon his fingers as many gold Rings as would furnish a Goldsmithes shop, or beseeme a Pandor of long profession to weare. Wondring what companion this should be, I inquired of what occupation. Marry Sir, quoth he, a Broker: why doe you aske, have you any patrones at my house? No, quoth I, not by the help of God never will have: but the reason is, to have you upon a Jury. At this word, before I could enter my discourse unto him, Velvet-breeches start up, and swore hee should bee none of the Quest, for he would challenge him. And why, quoth I, what know you by him? This base Churle is one of the spoyls of the

Common-wealth: beside, hée is a spoile of young Gentlemen, a blood-sucker of the poore, as thirsty as a Horse-leach, that will never leave drinking while he burst: A knave that hath interest in the Leases of forty Bawdy-houses, a receiver for Lifts, and a dishonourable supporter for Cutpurses. To conclude, hée was gotten by an Incubus, a Hée Devill, and brought forth by an over-worne refuse, that had spent her youth under the ruines of Bawdies barne.

O monstrous invective, quoth I, what reason have you to be thus bitter against him? Oh the villaine, quoth he, is the Devils Factor, sent from Hell to torment young Gentlemen upon earth: hée hath fetcht mée over in his time, onely in pawnes, in ten thousand pound in gold. Suppose that Gentlemen through their liberall minds may want that I néed, money: let me come to him with a pawne worth ten pound, hée will not lend upon it above three pound, and he will have a Bill of sale, and twelve pence in the pound for every moneth, so that it comes to sixteene pence, sith the Bill must monethly bée renued: and if you breake but your day set downe in the Bill of sale, your pawne is lost, as full bought and sold, you turned out of your goods, and hée an unconscionable gainer. Suppose the best, you kéepe your day, yet paying sixteene pence a moneth for twenty shillings, you pay as good for the lone as fourescore in the hundred: is not this monstrous exacting upon Gentlemen? Beside, the knave will bée diligently attending and waiting at dicing houses where wée are at play, and there hée is ready to lend the loser money upon Rings, and Chaines, apparell, or any other good pawne: but the poore Gentleman payes so deare for the Lavender it is laid up in, that if it lye long at a Brokers house, hée seemes to buy his apparell twice. Nay, this worme-eaten wretch hath déeper pit-falls yet to trap Youth in. For he being acquainted with a yong Gentleman of faire living, in issue of good Parents, or assured possibilitie; clothes him in his monstrous expences, and sayes, hée carries the minde of a Gentleman, promising if hée want, hee shall not lacke for a hundred pound or two, if the Gentleman neede. Then hath my Broker an Usurer at hand, as ill as himselfe, and he brings the money, but they tye the poore soule in such Darbies bands, what with receiving ill Commodities, and forfeitures upon the hand,

that

that they dub him Sir Iohn Had-land before they leave him, and share like Wolves the poore novices wealth betwixt them as a prey. He is (Sir) to bee briefe, a bowzie bawdie Miser, good for none but himselfe, and his trugge: a Carle that hath a filthy carkase without a conscience; a body of a man, wherein an infernall spirit, in stead of a soule, doth inhabit: the scum of the seuen deadly sinnes, an enemy to all good minds, a deuourer of young Gentlemen, and to conclude, my mortall enemie, and therfore admit of my challenge, and let him be none of the Iury. Truly (quoth Cloth-breeches) and I am willing he should be discarded too: for were not bad Brokers (I will not condemne all) there would be lesse filtching, and fewer Théeues; for they receiue all is brought them, and buy that for a Crowne, that is worth twenty Shillings: desire of gaine bindes their conscience, and they care not how it be come by, so they buy it cheape. Beside, they extort vpon the poore that are inforced through extreme want to pawne their clothes and houshould stuffe, their Pewter and Brasse; and if the poore soules that labour hard, misse but a day, the base-minded Broker takes the forfeit, without remorse, or pitty: It was not so in Diebus illis. But thou proud Vpstart Velvet-breeches hast learn'd all Englishmen their villany, and still to maintaine thy brauery: yea, I have knowne of late, when a poore woman layd a silver Thimble, that was sent her from her friends for a token, to pawne for six pence, and the Broker made her pay a halfepenny a weeke for it, which comes to two shillings a yeere, for six pence: sith then his conscience is so bad, let him be shuffled out amongst the Knaves, for a discarded Card. Content, quoth I, and bade the Broker stand backe, when there were euen at my héeles thrée in a cluster, pert youths all, and neatly tyred: I questioned them what they were: and the one said, he was a Barber, the other a Surgeon, and the third an Apothecarie. How like you of these (qd. I,) shall they be of your Iury? Of the Iury, qd. Cloth-breeches, neuer a one by my consent, For I challenge them all. Your reason qd. I, and then yon shall haue my verdict. Marry (qd. Cloth breeches) first to the Barber, he cannot be but a partiall man on Velvet breeches side, sith he gets more by one time dressing of him, then by ten times dressing of me: I come plaine to be poll'd, and to haue my beard cut, and pay him two pence: Veluet-breeches hee sits

downe in the chaire wrapt in fine Clothes, as though the Barber were about to make him a footcloth for the Vicar of Saint fooles: then beginnes hee to take his Scissors in his hand, and his Combe, and so to snap with them as if he meant to giue a warning to all the Lice in his nitty locks for to prepare themselues: for the day of their destruction was at hand: then comes he out with his fustian eloquence, and making a low conge, saith, Sir, will you have your worships haire cut after the Italian maner, short and round and then frounst with the curling yrons, to make it looke like a halfe Moone in a Mist? or like a Spaniard, long at the eares, and curled like to the two ends of an old cast Periwig:, or will you be Frenchified with a loue-locke downe to your shoulders, wherein you may weare your mistresse favour? the English cut is base, and Gentlemen scorne it, nouelty is dainty: speake the word, Sir, my Scissors are ready to execute your Worships will. His head being once drest which requires in combing and rubbing some two houres, hee comes to the Bason: then being curiously washt with no worse then a Camphire ball, he descends as low as his beard, and asketh whether he please to be shauen or no:, whether he will haue his Peake cut short and sharpe, amiable like an Inamorato, or broad pendant like a Spade, to be terrible, like a Warrior & a Soldado? whether he will have his crates cut low like a Juniper bush, or his Suberches taken away with a Razour? if it be his pleasure to haue his appendices prim'd, or his Mouchaches fostred, to turne about his eares like the branches of a Vine, or cut downe to the lip with the Italian lash, to make him looke like a halfe faced bauby in Brasse? These quaint termes, Barber, you greet Master Veluet-breeches withall, and at euery word a snap with your Scissors, and a cringe with your knee: whereas when you come to poore Cloth-breeches, you either cut his beard at your owne pleasure, or else in disdaine aske him if he will be trim'd with Christs cut, round like the halfe of a holland Cheese, mocking both Christ and vs: for this your knavery my will is, you shall be none of the Jury. For you, maister Surgeon, the statutes of England exempt you from being of any Quest, and beside, alas, I seldome fall into your hands, as being quiet, and making no brawles to haue wounds, as swart-rutting Veluet-breeches doth: neither doe I frequent whorehouses to catch the Marbles, and so to

grow

grow your Patient: I know you not, and therefore I appeale to the Statute, you shall have nothing to doe with my matter. And for you, Master Apothecary, alas, I looke not once in seven yéere into your Shop, without it be to buy a penny-worth of wormeséed to give my child to drinke, or a little Treacle to drive out the Measels, or perhaps some dregs or powders, to make my sick horse a drench withall: but for my selfe, if I be ill at ease, I take Kitchin-Physicke, I make my wife my Doctor, and my Garden my Apothecaries shop, whereas queasie Master Velvet-bréeches cannot have a fart awry, but he must have his Purgations, Pils, and Clisters, or evacuate by Electuaries: he must, if the least spot of Morphew come on his face, have his oyle of Tartar, his Lac virginis, his Champhire dissolved in veriuice, to make the foole as faire forsooth, as if hée were to play Maid-marian in a May-game or Morrice dance: tush, he cannot digest his meat without Conserves, nor end his meale without Suckats, nor (shall I speake plainely) please the Trugge his Mistresse, without he goe to the Apothecaries, for Eringion, Oleum Formicarum alatarum, & aqua mirabilis, often pound a pint: if Master Velvet-bréeches with drinking these drugs, hap to have a stinking breath, then forsooth the Apothecary must play the Perfumer to make it swéet: nay, what is it about him, that he blameth not nature for framing, and formeth it anew by art? and in all this who but Mounsier the Apothecary? therefore, good Sir (quoth he) séeing you have taken upon you to be trier for the challenges, let those thrée as partiall companions, be packing.

Why (quoth I) séeing you have yéelded such reason of refusall, let them stand by: presently looking about for more, comes stalking downe an aged grave Sir, in a black Velvet coat, and a black cloth Gowne, welted and faced, and after him, as I suppose, foure Servingmen, the most ilfavoured knaves, me thought, that ever I saw, one of them had on a Buffe-leather Jerkin, all greasie before with the droppings of Béere, that fell from his Beard; and by his side, a Skeine like a Brewers bung knife, and muffled hée was in a cloake turn'd over his nose, as though hée had béene ashamed to shew his face. The second had a belly like a Bucking-tubbe, and a thred-bare blacke coat unbuttoned before upon the breast, whereon the Map of drunkennesse was drawne, with the bawdy and bowsie excrements

that dropt from his filthy leaking mouth. The third was a long leane old slavering slangrill, with a Brazil staffe in the one hand, and a Whip-cord in the other; so poreblind, that he had like to have stumbled upon the company before he saw them. The fourth was a fat chuffe, with a sowre looke, in a blacke cloake faced with Taffata, and by his side a great side Pouch like a Faulkoner; for their faces, all foure seemed to be brethren, they were so bumbasted with the flockes of strong Beere and lined with the Lees of old Sacke, that they lookt like foure blowne bladders painted over with red Oaker, or washt over with the suds of an old stale die. All these, as well the Master, as the following Mates, would have past away, but that I stept before them and enquired first of the foremost, what he was? Mary qd. he, a Lawyer. Then Sir, quoth I, we have a matter in controversie that requires counsell, and you are the more welcome. What is it, quoth he? Marry, said I, whether Cloth-breeches or Velvet-breeches are of more worth? and which of them hath the best title to bee resident in England? At this, the Lawyer smiled: and Velvet-breeches stepping forth, tooke acquaintance of him, and commending his honesty, said, there could not be a man of better indifferency of the Jury: when Cloth-breeches stepping in, swore he marvelled he was not, so well as the Surgeon, exempted by act of Parliament, from being of any Quest; sith as the Surgeon was without pity, so he was without conscience: and thereupon inferr'd his challenge, saying, the Lawyer was never friend to Cloth-breeches: for when lowlinesse, neighbourhood, and hospitality lived in England; Westminster-hall was a dining chamber, not a denne of controversies, when the King himselfe was content to keepe his S. Georges day in a plaine paire of Kersie Hose, when the Duke, Earle, Lord, Knight, Gentleman and Esquire, aymed at vertue, not pride; and wore such Breeches as was spun in his house: then the Lawyer was a simple man, and in the highest degree was but a bare Scrivener, except Judges of the Land, which tooke in hand serious matters, as treasons, murthers, fellonies, and such capitall offences, but seldome was there any pleas put in, before that proud Upstart Velvet-breeches, for his maintenance invented strange controversies, and since he beganne to domineere in England, he hath buz'd such a proud, busie, covetous, and incroching humour upon every mans head, that Lawyers are grown

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to be one of the chiefe limbs of the common-wealth: for they do nolo adayes de lana caprina rixari, goe to Law if a Hen doe but scrape in his Orchard; but howsoever right be, might carries away the verdict: if a poore man sue a Gentleman, why he shotes up to the sky, and the Arrow falls on his owne head, howsoever the cause goe, the weakest is thrust to the wall: Lawyers are troubled with the heat of the Liver, which makes the palmes of their hands so hot, that they cannot be cool'd, unlesse they bee rub'd with the oyle of Angels: but the poore man that gives but his bare fee, or perhaps pleads in forma pauperis, he hunteth for Hares with a Taber, and gropeth in the darke to finde a Needle in a bottle of Hay: tush, these Lawyers have such delatorie and forraine pleas, such dorners such quibs and quiddits, that beggering their Clients, they purchase to themselves whole Lordships: it boteth not men to discourse their little conscience, and great extortion, onely suffice they be not so rich as they be bad, and yet they be but too wealthy. I inveigh not against Law, nor honest Lawyers, for there be some well qualified, but against extorting Ambodexters that wring the poore: and because I know not whether this be such a one, or no, I challenge him not to be of my Jury. Why then (quoth I) his Worship may depart: and then I questioned what hee in the Buffe Jerkin was: Harry (quoth he) I am a Sergeant. He had no sooner said so, but Velvet-breeches leapt backe, and drawing his Rapier, I swore hee did not onely challenge him for his Jury, but protested if he strid one foote toward him hee would make him eate a piece of his Poniard. And what is the reason (quoth I) that there is such mortall hatred betwixt you and the Serieant? Sir (quoth Velvet-breeches) search him, and I warrant you, the knave hath precept upon precept to arrest mee, hath worne his face smoth, with onely clapping it upon my shoulder, hee hath had me under coram so often: oh the Keyzobate is the Usurers executioner to bring such Gentlemen to Limbo, as he hath overthrowne with his base bracage, and bad commodities: and as you see him a fat knaue with a foggie face, wherein a cup of old sack hath set a seale, to marke the bowsie drunkard to die of the dropsie: so his conscience is consumed, and his heart robd of all remorse and pitty, that for money he will betray his owne father: for will a Cormorant but see him to arrest a young Gentleman, the Rake-

hell

hell will be so eager to catch him, as a dogge to take a Beare by the eares in Paris Garden, and when he hath laid hold upon him, hée useth him as courteously as a Butchers Curre would doe an Oxecheeke when hée is hungry: if hée see the Gentleman hath money in his purse, then straight with a cap and knée he carries him to the Taverne, and bids him send for some of his friends to baile him: but first he covenants to have some brace of Angels for his paines, and besides he cals in for Wine as grédily, as if the knaves mother had béen brocht against a Hogshead when he was begotten: but suppose the Gentleman wants pence, hée will either have a pawne, or else dragge him to the Counter, without respect of manhood, or honesty. I should spend the whole day with displaying his villanies: therefore briefly let this suffice, hée was never made for any goodnesse, but his slovenly carkasse was fram'd by the Devill, of the rotten carrion of a Wolfe, and his soule of an Usurers damned ghost, turn'd out of hell, into his body, to doe monstrous wickednesse againe upon the earth, so that hée shall be none of my Jury, neither shall hée come néerer mée than the length of my Rapier will suffer him.

Indéed, quoth Cloth-bréeches, generally Sergeants be bad, but there be amongst them some honest men, that will doe their duties with lawfull favour: for, to say truth, if Sergeants were not, how should men come by their debts? marry they are so cruell in their office, that if they arrest a poore man, they will not suffer him (if he hath not money) to stay a quarter of an hower to talke with his Creditor, although perhaps at the méeting they might take composition; but onely to the Counter with him, unlesse hée will lay his Pewter, Brasse, Coverlets, Shéetes, or such houshold-stuffe, to them for pawne of payment of some coyne for their staying: therefore let him depart out of the place, for his roome is better than his company. Well then, quoth I, what say you to these thrée? and with that I questioned their names: the one said hée was a Sumner, the other a Gaoler, and the third an Informer. Jesus blesse me (quoth Cloth-bréeches) what a Ging was here gathered together? no doubt hell is broke loose, and the Devill meanes to kéepe Holliday: I make challenge against them all, as against worse men than those that gave evidence against Christ: for the Sumner, it

bootes

bootes me to say little more against him, than Chaucer did in his Canturbury Tales, who said he was a knave, a Vsiber and a Bawd: but leaving that authority, although it be authenticall, yet thus much I can say of my selfe, that these drunken drowsie sonnes goe a tooting abroad (as they themselves tearme it) which is to heare if any man hath got his Maid with child, or playes the goodfellow with his Neighbours Wife: if he find a hole in any mans coat that is of wealth, then he hath his peremptory citation ready to cite him unto the Archdeacons, or Officials Court, there to appeare and abide the shame and penalty of the Law: the man perhaps in good credit with his Neighbours, loth to bring his name in question, greaseth the Sumner in the fist, and then he wipes him out of the Booke, and suffers him to get twenty with child, so he keepe him warme in the hand. Hee hath a saying to wanton Wives, and they are his good Dames, and as long as they feed him with Cheese, Bacon, Capons, and such odde reversions, they are honest: and be they never so bad, he sweares to the Officiall, complaints are made upon envie, and the women are of good behaviour. Tush, what bawdry is it hee will not suffer, so hee may have money, and good cheere: and if hee like the Wench well, a snatch himselfe, for they know all the Whores in a country, and are as lecherous companions as may be. To be briefe, the Sumner lives upon sins of people, and out of harlotry gets he all his commodity. As for the Gaoler, although I have beene little troubled in prison, to have experience of his knavery: yet have I heard the poore prisoners complaine how cruell they be to them, extorting with extraordinary fees, selling a double curtall (as they call it) with a double Jugge of Beere for two pence, which containes not above a pint and a halfe. Let a poore man be arrested into one of the Counters, though he but set his foote in them but halfe an houre, he shall be almost at an Angels charge: what with garnish, crolling, and wiping out of the Booke, turning the key, paying the Chamberlaine, fees for his Jury, and twenty such extortions, invented by themselves, and not allowed by any Statute. God bless me, Gaoler from your Hen-houses, as I will keepe you from comming in my Quest. And to you, Master Inkorner, you that looke like a civill Citizen, or some handsome Petty-fogger of the Law: although your crimson nose bewrayes you can sup off a cole cup of Sacke

without any chewing, yet have you as much knavery in your side Pouch there, as would breed the confusion of forty honest men. It may be, Sir, that you marvell why I exclaime against the Informer, sith he is a most necessary member in the Common-wealth, and is highly to the Princes advantage for the benefit of penall Statutes and other abuses, whereof he giveth speciall intelligence? To wipe out this doubt, I speake not against the Office, but the Officer, against such as abuse Law, when they should use it, and such a one I gesse this fellow to be, by the Carnation tincture of his rubie nose. Therefore let us search his bagge, and see what trash you shall finde in it: with that, although the Informer were very loth, yet we pluckt out the stuffing of his pouch, and in it was found a hundred and odde Writs: Whereat I wondred: and Cloth-breeches smiling bad me reade the Labels, and the parties names, and then examine the Informer how many of them he knew, and wherein they had offended. I followed his Counsell, and of all he knew but three, neither could he tell what they had done amisse to bee arrested, and brought in question.

Cloth breeches seeing me stand in a maze began thus to resolve me in my doubt. Perhaps, quoth he, you marvell, why the Informer hath all these Writs, and knowes neither the parties, nor can object any offence to them? To this I answer: that it being a long vacation he learned in the rowle all those mens names, and that they were men of indifferent wealth: Now meanes he to goe abroad, and search them out and arrest them, and though they know not wherein, or for what cause they should be troubled, yet rather than they will come up to London and spend their money, they will bestow some odde Angell upon Master Informer and so sit at home in quiet. But suppose some bee so stubborne as to stand to the tryall, yet can this cunning knave declare a Tanquam against them, so that though they be cleared, yet can they have no recompence at all, for that he doth it in the Courts behalfe. I will not unfold all his villanies, but he is an abuser of good Lawes and a very knave: and so let him be with his fellowes. I both wondred & laught to heare Cloth-breeches make this discourse when I saw two in the Wally together by the eares, the one in leather, the other as blacke as the Devill: I stept to them to part the fray, and questioned what they were, and wherefore they brawled? Harry, quoth

quoth hée, that lookt like Lucifer, Though I am blacke, I am not the Dewill, but indéed a Collyer of Croydon, and one, Sir, that have sold many a man a false facke of coles, that both wanted measure, and was halfe full of dust and drosse. Indéed I have béene a Leiger in my time in London, and have played many madde prankes: for which cause, you may apparantly sée, I am made a curtall: for the Pillory (in the sight of a great many good and sufficient witnesses) hath eaten off both mine eares: and now, Sir, this Ropemaker hunteth mée here with his Halters. I gesse him to bee some evill spirit, that in the likenes of a man, would since I have past the pillory, perswade mée to hang my selfe for my old offences; and therefore lith I cannot bleese mée from him with Nomine Patris, I lay Spiritus Sanctus about his shoulders with a Crab-tree Cudgell, that he may get out of my company.

The Ropemaker replyed, that honestly journeying by the way, hée acquainted himselfe with the Collyer, and for no other cause pretended. Honest with the Dewill (quoth the Collyer?) how can hée bée honest, whose Mother I gesse was a Witch? For I have heard them say, that Witches say their prayers backe ward, and so doth the Ropemaker earne his living by going backe ward; and the Knaves chiefe living is by making fatall instruments, as Halters and Ropes, which divers desperate men hang themselves with. Well (quoth I) what say you to these, shall they bée on the Jury? Velvet-breeches said nothing, but Cloth breeches said, In the Ropemaker he found no great falthood in him, therefore hée was willing hée should bée one: but for the Collyer, hée thought it necessary, that as he came, so he should depart: so then I bade the Ropemaker stand by till more came, which was not long; for there came three in a cluster. As soone as they drew nigh, I spyed one, a fat Churle with a side Russet coat to his knée, and his hands all to tanned with shifting his Onse, yet would I not take notice what they were, but questioned with them of their severall occupations. Marry, quoth the first, I am a Tanner, the second a Shoomaker, and the third a Currier: then turning to the Plaintiffe and Defendant, I asked them if they would allow of these parties? No, by my faith, quoth Cloth-breeches, I make challenge unto them all, and I will yéld reasons of import against them: first,

to you, Master Tanner, Are you a man worthy to be of a Jury, when your conscience cares not to wrong the whole Common-wealth? you respect not publike commoditie, but private gaines: not to benefit your Neighbour, but for to make the proud Princocke your sonne an Upstart Gentleman: and because you would marry your Daughter at the least to an Esquire, that she may, if it be possible, be a Gentlewoman: and how comes this to passe? By your Tanfats forsooth. For whereas by the ancient Lawes and Statutes of England, you should let a Hyde lye in the Ooze, at the least nine moneths, you can make good Leather of it before three moneths: you have your Doves dung, your Marle, your ashen Barke, and a thousand things more, to bring on your Leather apace, that it is so badly Tanned, that when it comes to the wearing, then it fleetes away like a piece of browne Paper: And whereas your Backes, of all other, should be the best tanned; you bring them so full of horne to the Market, that did you not greaze the Sealers of Leaden-hall thorowly in the fist, they should never be sealed, but turned away, and made forfeit by the Statute. I cannot at large lay open your subtill practices to beguile the poore communalty with bad Leather. But let this suffice, you leave no villany unsought, to bring the blockhead your sonne to goe afore the Clowne his father, trimly trickt up in a paire of Velvet breeches.

Now, Master Currier, to your coozenage; you cannot be content onely to burne the Leather you dresse, for fault of liquor, because you would make the Shoomaker pay well, and you put in little stuffe: and beside, when as in Backes you should only put in Tallow hard and good, you put in soft Kitchin-stuffe mixt, and so make the good and well-tanned Leather by your villany, to fleete and waste away, but also you grow to be an extorting Knave and a forestaller of the Market; for you will buy Leather, Sides, Backes, and Calve skinnes, and sell them to the poore Shoomakers at an unreasonable rate, by your false retayling, getting infinite goods by that excessive price: both undoing the poore Shoomaker, and causing us, that we pay extremely for Shooes. For if the Currier bought not Leather by the whole of the Tanner, the Shoomaker might have it at a more reasonable price: but the Shoomaker being poore, is not perhaps able to deale with a dicker of Hydes, nor perhaps

haps with a couple of Backes, and the Tanner will not trust him: then the extorting and couzening Currier comes vp with this, I will lend you soz a day: and so pincheth him, that hee is scarce able to finde his childzen bzead. But well hath the Prince and the Honozable Lozds of the pzivie Councel pzovided by Act of Parliament, That no Currier shall buy Leather, either Backes oz Hides of the Tanner, so to bzidle the extozting and sozestalling couzenage: but craftilier and subtilier hath the knave Currier crosbitten the Statute, in that he deales thus with the Tanner, hee makes him hould his Leather unreasonably to the Shoomaker; and so when hee cannot sell it, he layes it vp in the Curriers house, under a coulour, whereas indeed he hath sould it him. Suppose this shift be spied and pzevented: then compoundeth he with some knave Shoomaker, some base Rake-hell without a consclence, that neither respecteth God, the Common-wealth, noz his Company, and sozlooth hee is halfe with the Currier, who letteth him haue some hundzed Marke to lay out soz Leather every moneth, whereas he spends not in his shop a hundzed Markes wooxth in a yéere: so the Shoomaker buyes it to abuse the Statuts, soz the Currier, and the Currier by that meanes bndoeth the other Shoomakers: thus two crafty knaves are met, and they néed no Bzoker.

Now to you Gentle-craft, you master-Shoomakers: you can put in the inner sole of a thin Calues skin, when as the Shoo is a Neats-leather Shoo, which you know is cleane contrary both to consclence and the Statute. Besides, you will ioyne a Neats-leather Vampey to a Calues-leather Perle: is not here good stuffe, master Shoomaker? Well, soz your knavery, you shall haue those curses which belong vnto your Craft: you shall be light-footed to trauell farre, light witted vpon every small occasion to giue your masters bagge: you shall bee most of you bnthrifts, and almost all perfect good fellowes. Besides, I remember a merry iest, how Mercury bzought you to a dangerous disease, soz hee requested a boone soz you, which fell out to your great disadvantage: and to recreate vs, beare a little Gentle-creft, what fell to your trade by that winged god. As it happed on a time, that Iupiter and Mercury trauelling together vpon earth, Mercury was wonderfully hungry and had no money in his purse to buy him any foode, and at last, to his

great comfort hee spied where a company of Taylours were at Dinner with buttered Pease, eating their Pease with their Needles points one by one: Mercury came to them, and asked them his almes: they proudly bade him sit downe and doe as hee sawe they did, and with that delivered him a Needle. The poore god being passing hungry, could not content his maw with eating one by one, but turned the eye of his Needle, and eate two or three together. Which the Taylours seeing, they start up, and said: What fellow, a Shovell and Spade to butter'd Pease? hast thou no more manners? Get out of our company; and so they sent him packing with many strokes. Mercury comming backe, Iupiter demaunded of him what newes? and he tould him how churlishly hee was used amongst the Taylors. Well, wandring on further, Mercury spied where a company of Shoomakers were at Dinner with powdred Beefe and Brewesse: going to them, before he could aske them any almes, they said, Welcome good fellow, what, is thy stomache dy? wilt thou doe as we doe, and taste of Beefe? Mercury thanked them, and sate downe and eate his belly full, and dranke well of double Beere, and when he had done went home to his master. As soone as hee came, Iupiter asked him what newes? and he said: I have lighted amongst a crue of Shoomakers, the best fellowes that ever I met withall, they have frankely feede me without grudging, and therefore grant mee a boone for them. Aske what thou wilt, Mercury, quoth hee, and it shall be done. Why then, quoth hee, grant, that for this good turne they have done mee, they may ever spend a Groat, afore they can earne two pence. It shall be granted, quoth he; Mercury, as soone as Iupiter had said the word, hee bethought himselfe, and said: Nay, but that they may earne a Groate afore they spend two pence, for my tongue slipt at the first. Well, Mercury quoth hee, it can not bee recalled, the first with must stand: and hereof by Mercuries boone it grew, that all of the Gentle craft are such good fellowes, and Spendthrifts. But howsoever, none of these three, neither Shoomaker, Tanner, nor Currier, shall be accepted to be of the Jury.

As they went away with teares in their eares, being thus taunted by Cloth-Breeches, we might see where there came a troope of ancient

ent Gentlemen, with their Seruingmen attending vpon them. The formost was a great old man, with a white beard, all in Russet, and a faire blacke cloake on his backe, and attending on him he had some fiue men: their cognizance, as I remember, was a Peacock without a tayle: the other two that accompanied him, seemed meaner then himselfe: but yet Gentlemen of good Worship: whereupon I went towards them, and saluted them, and was so bold as to question what they were, and of their businesse.

The most ancientest answered hee was a Knight, and those two his Neighbours: the one an Esquire, the other a Gentleman: and that they haue no urgent affaires, but onely to walke abroad to take the fresh ayre. Then did I shew them both Cloth-breeches, and Velvet-breeches, and told them the Controuersie, and desired their ayde to bee vpon the Jury. They smiling answered, They were content: and so did Cloth-breeches seeme to reioyce, that such honest ancient English Gentlemen should bee tryers of this Title. But Velvet-breeches stomming, stept in and made challenge to them all. I demanded the reason why hee should refuse Gentlemen of so good calling? And he made me this answer: Why, you may gesse the inward minde, by the outward Apparell: And see how he is addicted by the homely robes hee is suted in. Why, this Knight is mortall enemy to pride, and so to me: he regardeth hospitality, and aimeth at honour, with relieving the poore: you may see although his Lands and reuenues be great, and he able to maintaine himselfe in great bravery, yet hee is content with home-spun cloath, and scorneth the pride that is used now adayes amongst young Upstarts: hee holdeth not the worth of his Gentry to be and consist in Velvet-breeches, but valueth true fame by the report of the common sort, who praise him for his Vertue, Justice, liberality, Housekeeping and Almes-deeds, Vox populi, vox Dei: his Tenants and Farmers would if it might be possible, make him immortall with their prayers, and praises. Hee raiseth not rent, racketh no lands, taketh no incumbs, imposeth no mercifelle fines, enuies not another, buyeth no house ouer his Neighbours head: but respecteth his countrey, and the commodity thereof, as deare as his life. Hee regardeth more to haue the needy fedde, to haue his house garnished with full platters, then to famous himselfe with excessiue fare-

furniture in apparell. Since then he scorneth pride, he must of force proclaime himselfe mine enemy: and therefore he shall be none of my Jury; and such as himselfe I ghesse the Squire, and the Gentleman and therefore I challenge them all. Why, quoth I, this is strange, that a man should be drawne from a Quest, for his godlinesse. If men for Vertue be challenged, whom shall we have upon the Jury? your objection helps not Master Velvet-breeches: For if he be a man of so godly disposition, he will neither speake for feare nor favour, he will regard neither the riches of the one, nor the plaine poverty of the other: whereupon, sith you have made me a tryer, I allow them all three to be of the Jury: and so I requested them to sit downe till our Jury was full, which they courteously did, although Velvet breeches frown'd at it.

When I looking for more, saw where there came a troupe of men in apparell seeming poore honest Citizens, in all they were eight. I demanded of them what they were, and whither they were going. One of them that seemed the wealthiest, who was in a furred Jacket, made answer, that they were all friends, going to the burriall of a Neighbour of theirs, that yesternight dyed, and if it would doe me any pleasure to heare their names, they were not so dainty but that they would tell them: and so then he began tell mee, that by his Art hee was a Skinner: the second said hee was a Joyner, the third was a Sadler, the fourth a Waterman, the fift was a Cutler, the sixth was a Bellowes-mender, the seventh a Plaisterer, and the eighth a Painter. In good time, quoth I, it is commendable when neighbours love so well together: but if your speed be not overmuch, I must request you to be of a Jury: so I discourst unto them the controversie betweene Cloth-breeches, and Velvet-breeches, and to what issue it must grow by a verdict: they seemed all content, and I turned to the Plaintiffe, and Defendant, and asked if they would make challenge to any of these? I scorne, quoth Velvet-breeches, to make any great objection against them, sith they bee mechanicall men, and I almost hold them indifferent: for this I know, they get as much and more by me, than by him. The Skinner I use for Furres, whereas this base Cloth-breeches, hath scarce a Gowne lined once in his life: the Sadler, for costly imbroidered Saddles: the Joyner for decking my house: the Cutler for gilt Rapiers: the

Water-

Waterman I vse continually, ten times for his once, and so likewise the plaisterer: for the Bellowsmender, alas, poore snake, I know him not: for the Printer, assuredly, I thinke I am some ten pound in his debt for Bookes, so that for my part let them all passe. And for me (quoth Cloth-breeches) but yet a little to put them in remembrance of their follies, let mée have a bout with them all: and first with you, Master Skinner, to whom I can say little, but onely this, that whereas you should only put the backs of skins into facing, you take the wombes, and so deceive the buyer: beside, if you have some fantasticke skin brought you not worth two pence, with some strange spots, though it bée of a Leopard, you will sweare it is a most precious skin, and came from Muscouia, or the furthest part of Calabria. The Saddler he stuffes his Pannels with Straw or Hay, and over-glaseth them with Haire, and makes the Leather of them of Oxe, or tan'd Sheepes skinnes. The Joyner, though an honest man, yet hée maketh his joynts weake, and putteth in sappe in the principles, which should be the heart of the Tree, and all to make his stuffe slender. And you Cutler, you are patron to Ruffians and swashbucklers, and will sell them a blade that may be thrust into a bushell, but to a poore man that cannot skill of it, you sell him a sword or rapier new over-glased, and sweare, the blade came either from Turky, or Toledo. Now (Master Waterman) you will say there is no subtilty in you, for there is none so simple but that knows your fares, & what is due betwéen Greenwich and London, and how you earne your money painefully with the sweat of your browes: all this is true, but let me whisper one thing in your eare, you will play the good-fellow too much if you be well greased in the fist, for if a young Gentleman and a pretty wench come to you, & say, Waterman, my friend and I meane to go by water, and to be merry a night or two, I care not which way nor whither we goe, and therefore where thou thinkest wée may have best lodging, thither carry us: then off goes your cap, and away they goe, to Brainford, or some other place, and then you say, Oh sir, I pray you use this Gentleman and his wife well, they are come out of London to take the ayre, and meane to be merry here a night or two, and to spend their money frankly, when God wot they are neither man nor wife, nor perhaps of any acquaintance, before their match made in some bawdy Tavern; but you know no such matter: & therefore Wa-

terman, I pardon you. And for you, Plaisterer and Bellowsmender, I passe you over, and so I doe the Printer too. And therefore I am content they shall be all on the Jury. I was glad there were so many accepted at once, and hoped that now quickly the Jury would bee full.

Looking about me, straight I might see one alone come running as fast as he could: I wondred what hee should be that he made such hast, and the Skinner told mee hee was an honest man, and one of their company, by his occupation a Bricklayer. Oh (quoth Velvet-breeches) a good honest simple man, he hath been long in my work, in building me a sumptuous house. But I challenge him (quoth Cloth-breeches) for hee is a Jugler. How (quoth I) can it be? see, he goeth very homely in leather, and hath his ruler in his hand, and his trowell at his side, and he seemeth not as one that were given to such qualities. Yes, (quoth Cloth-breeches) he hath his policy, when he maketh a stately place all glorious to the eye, and full of faire chambers and godly roomes, and about his house perhaps some three or foure Chimnies: yet he can so cunningly cast by his art, that three of them shall not smoake in the twelvemonth, and so spoiles he much good Morter and Bricke.

Why (quoth I) the fault is not in the Workeman, but the housekeeper: for now adayes men build to please the eye, not to profit the poore, they use no rost but for themselves and their houshold, nor no fire, but a little Court Chimney in their owne Chamber: how can the poore Bricklayer then be blamed, when the niggardnesse of the Lord and Master is the cause no more Chimnies doe smoke? for would they use ancient Hospitality as their fore-Fathers did, and value as lightly of pride, as their great Grandfathers, then should you see every Chimny in the house smoke, and prove that the poore Artificer had done his part. Why then (quoth Cloth-breeches) as you please, admit him on the Quest. But what be those (qd. Cloth-breeches) that come here so soberly? I hope they be honest men for they looke very demure. I will inquire said I, and with that stepping to them, I demanded their names: and very courteously the one said he was a Brewer, the other a Butcher, the third a Baker, and the fourth a Victualler. Hearing what they were, I was glad, ghessing fitly they were so honest substantiall men, that they would helpe to

make

make up the Jury; when Velvet-breeches with a grimme and lowre countenance gave them this challenge: I hold it not necessary (quoth hee) that these have any thing to deale in my cause, sith I am at odds with them all, at least in forty pounds apiece: for this seven yeere have I beene indebted unto them for Bread, Beefe, Beere, and other Victuals; then sith they have credited me long, and I have had so little care to pay them, I doubt now they will revenge themselves, and passe against me in the Verdict. Nay (quoth I) the rather will they hold on your part; for if they be honest wise men, (as they seeme to be) they will be carefull of your preferment, seeing the more highly you are advanc't, the more like are they to come by their owne. If therefore you can object no other points of dishonesty against them, I see no reason why they should be put by. If you doe not (quoth Cloth-breeches) then heare me and I will prove them unfit to have any dealings here, and first for the Butcher: I pray you God-man Bil-Calfe, what havocke play you with puffing up of meate, and blowing with your Pricker as you slay it? have you not your artificiall knaveries to set out your meate with prickes, and then I weare hee hath more for money than ever you bought: to sell a piece of an old Cow, for a choppe of a young Ore: to wash your old meat that hath hung weltring in the shop, with new blood, to truffe away an old Calfe, in stead of a yong Weather: and although you know it is hurtfull and forbidden by the Statutes to slay your Hydes skins, backs, with cuts and slashes, to the impoverishing of the poore Shoomaker when hee buyes it: yet I pray you how many slaughters doe you make in a poore Calves-skin? Oh Butcher, a long Lent be your punishment: for you make no conscience in deceiving the poore. And you Brewer, that grow to be worth forty thousand pounds by selling of sodden water, what subtilty have you in making your Beere, to spare the Malt, and put in more of the Hop to make your drinke (be Barly never so cheape) not a whit the stronger, and yet sell never a whit the more measure for money; you can, when you have taken all the heart of the Malt away, then clap on store of water, 'tis cheape enough, and mash out a tunning of small Beere, that it scoures a mans mawe like Rennish Wine: in your conscience how many Barrels draw you out of a quarter of Malt? fie, fie, I conceale your falshood,

leſt I ſhould bee too broad in ſetting downe your faults. And for you, goodman Baker, you that loue to be ſeene in the open Market-place upon the Pillory, the world cryes out of your wilineſſe, you crabbe but one deare yeere to make your Daughter a Gentlewoman: you buy your Corne at the beſt hand, and yet will not be content to make your bread weight by many ounces: you put in yeſt, and Salt, to make it heavie, and yet all your policie cannot make it, but you fine for the Pillory. The poore cry out, the rich find fault, and the Lord Maior, and the Sheriffes, like Honourable and Worſhipfull Magiſtrates, every day walke abroad, and weigh your bread, and yet all will not ſerve to make you honeſt men: but were extremity uſed, and the Statute put in the higheſt degree in practice, you would have as few eares of your heads, as the Collyer. Laſt, to you, Tom Tapſter, that tap your ſmall Cans of Beere to the poore, and yet fill them halfe full of froth, that card your Beere (if you ſee your gheſts begin to be drunke) halfe ſmall, and ſtrong: you cannot bee content to pinch them with your ſmall pots, and your Oſtrie Faggots: but have your Drugges, to draw men on to villany, and to bring cuſtomers to your houſe, where you ſell a ſoynt of meat for twelve pence, that coſt you ſcarce five: and if any chance to goe on the ſcore, you ſcore him when he is aſleepe, and ſet up a groat a day more than he hath, to find you drinking pots with your companions. To be ſhort, thou art a knave, and I like not of any of the reſt, the way lies before you, and therefore you may bee gone, for you ſhall be none of the Queſt.

I ſmil'd to ſee Cloth breeches ſo peremptorie: when I ſaw five fat fellowes, all in Damaske Coates, and Gownes welted with Velvet, very brave, and in great conſultation, as if they were to determine of ſome weighty matter. Drawing neere, I ſawe they were wealthy Citizens: ſo I went, and reverently ſaluted them, and told them how wee needed their aide, about the appeaſing of a Controverſie: ſhewing them where the Knight, Eſquire, and other ſtayed, till we [illegible] finde men to fill up the Jury: they were contented; but Velvet breeches excepted againſt foure of them, and ſaid, they were none of his friends: that was the Merchant, Goldſmith, Mercer, and Draper. His allegations were theſe, that they were all feathered of one wing, to fetch in young Gentlemen by

commodities, under the colour of lending of money. For the Merchant, he deliuered the Iron, Tinne, Lead, Hoppes, Sugars, Spices, Oyles, brown Paper, or whatsoeuer else, from fiue moneths, to fiue moneths; which when the poore Gentleman came to sell againe, he could not make three score and tenne in the hundred, beside the usury. The Mercer, he followeth the young Vpstart Gentleman, that hath no gouernement of himselfe, and hee feedeth his humour to goe braue: he shall not want Silkes, Sattins, Velvets, to prancke abroad in his pompe; but with this prouiso, that he must binde ouer his Land in a Statute-Merchant, or Staple; and so at last forfeit all unto the mercilesse Mercer, and leaue himselfe never a foot of ground in England; which is the reason, that for a few remnants of Velvets, and Silkes, the Mercer creepeth into whole Lordshippes. The Goldsmith is not behinde; for most of them deale with usury, and let young Gentlemen haue commodities of Plate, for ten in the hundred, but they must lose the fashion in selling it againe, (which cuts them sore) beside, they are most of them skild in Alcumie, and can temper metals sheerely, with no little profit to themselues, and disaduantage to the buyer: beside, purse Rings, and quaint conceits which I omit. And so for you, Draper, hee fetcheth them off for Liuery Cloth, and Cloth for fiue moneths and fiue: & yet hath he more knacks in his budget: for he hath so dark a shop, that no man can well chuse a piece of Cloth, it so shadowes the Dye and the Thred, a man shall be deceiued in the Wooll and the Nappe, they cause the Clothworker so to presse them: beside, he imposeth this charge to the Cloth-worker, that he draw his Cloth and pull it passing hard when he sets it upon the Tenters, that he may haue it full breadth and length, till thread and all teare and rent a pieces: what care they for that? haue they not a Draper to serue their turne, to draw and seame up the holes so cunningly, that it shall neuer be espyed? My selfe hath seene in one broad Cloath eight score holes torne racke and pulde by the Cloth-worker, only to please the Draper, and deceiue the Common-wealth. To be short, the Clothworker, what with rowing and setting in a fine nap, with powdring it and pressing it, with sheering the wooll to the proofe of the thread, deale so cunningly, that they proue themselues the Drapers ministers to execute his subtilties: therefore if he chance to come, let him

bée remembred. Now, Sir, for the Vintner, he is an honest substantiall man, a friend to all good fellowes, and truely my freind for my money, and worthy to be of the Jury.

Why (quoth Cloth-bréeches) I am of another minde; for I hold him as deceitfull as any of the rest. What the Vintner? why, hée is a kinde of Negromancer: for at midnight, when all men are in bed, then hee, forsooth fals to his charmes and spels, so that hee tumbles one Hogshead into another, and can make a cup of Claret that hath lost his coulour, looke high with a dash of red wine, at his pleasure. If hee hath a strong Gascoine Wine, for feare it should make his ghests too soone drunke, he can allay it with a small Rochel wine: he can cherish up white wine, with Sacke: and perhaps if you bid him wash the pot cleane when hee goes to draw you a Quart of Wine, hée will leave a little water in the bottome, and then draw it full of Wine. And what if he doe? 'tis no harme, wine and water is good against the heat of the Liver. It were infinite to rehearse the iuggling of Vintners, the disorder of their houses, especially of the persons that frequent them: and therefore sith Velvet-bréeches hath put by the Merchant, Goldsmith, Mercer, and Draper, the Vintner shall goe with them for company. As these were going away in a snuffe, for being thus plainly taunted: wee might see a mad merry cruecome leaping over the field as frolickly, as if they ought not all the world two pence: and drawing néerer, we might perceive, that either Bottle-Ale or Beere had made a fray with them: for the lifting of their feet, shewed the lightnesse of their heads. The foremost was a plaine country Sir Iohn, or Vicar, that proclaimed by the rednesse of his nose, he did oftner goe into the Ale-house, than the Pulpit: and him I asked what they were, and whither they were going? What are you, quoth the Priest, that stand by the high-way to examine me & my friends? her's none in my company but are able to answer for themselves. I séeing they were all set on a merry pin, told the cause, and how the Controversie grew betwixt Cloth-bréeches, and Velvet-breeches, and that we needed them to bee of the Quest. Marry (quoth Sir Iohn) a good motion: know these all are my parishioners, and we have been drinking with a poore man, and spending our money with him; a neighbour of ours, that hath lost a Cow. Now for our names, and our Trades, this is a Smith, the second,

cond, a Weaver; the third a Miller; the fourth a Cooke; the fift a Carpenter, the sixt a Glover; the seventh, a Pedlar; the eight, a Tinker; the ninth a Water-bearer; the tenth a Husbandman; the eleuenth a Dyer, and the twelfth a Saylor, and I the Vicar. How could you, Sir, haue a fitter Jury then me, and my Parishioners: you are a little too briefe, qd. Cloth-breeches: are you not some Puritan, q. Parson, or some fellow that raiseth up new schismes, and heresies amongst your people: A plague on them all, qd. I, Sir for the world was never in quiet: deuotion, neighbourhood, nor hospitality never flourished in this Land since such vpstart boyes, and shittle-witted foles became of the ministry. I cannot tell they preach faith, faith, and say that doing of almes is Papistry; but they haue taught so long Fides solum iustificat, that they haue preached good workes quite out of our parish: a poore man shall as soone breake his neck as his fast, at a rich mans doore: For, my friend, I am indeed none of the best scholers; yet I can read an Homily euery Sunday and Holiday and I keep company with my neighbours, and go to the Alehouse with them: and if they be faine out, spend my money to make them friends: and on Sundayes some time, if good fellowship call me away, I say both morning and euening prayer at once, and so let them haue a whole afternoone to play in. This is my life, I spend my liuing with my Parishioners: I seeke to doe all good, and I offer no man harme. Well (quoth Cloth-breeches) I warrant thou art an honest Vicar, and therefore stand by, thou shalt be one of the Quest. And for you, Smith: I see no great fault in you: you earne your liuing with the sweat of your browes, and there can be no great knauery in you: onely I would haue you to mend your life for drinking, sith you are neuer at quiet, vnlesse the pot be still at your nose. Wife you, Weaver, the Prouerb puts you downe for a crafty knaue: you can filch, and steale, almost as well as the Taylor: your woofe, and warpe, is so cunningly drawne out, that you plague the poore countrey huswiues for their yarne, and dawbe on so much dreggs, that you make it seeme both well wrought, and to beare waight: when it is slenderly woven, and you haue stolne a quarter of it from the poore wife. Away, be packing, for you shall be cashiered. What Miller; shake hands with your brother the Weaver for knauerie: You can take Toll twice, and haue false hoppers to conuey away

the

the poore mans meale. Be gone, I loue not your dusty lookes: and for company, goodman Cooke, goe you with them: for you cozen the poore men, and countrey Farmers, with your filthy meat. You will buy of the worst, and cheapest, when it is bad enough for dogs, and yet ſo powder it, and parboyle it, that you will ſell it to ſome honeſt poore men: and that vnreaſonably too. If you leaue any meate ouernight, you make a ſhift to heate it againe the next day. Nay, if on the Thurſday at night there bee any left, you make Pies of it on Sunday mornings, and almoſt with your ſlouenly knauerie poiſon the poore people. To be ſhort, I brooke you not, and therefore be walking. For the Carpenter, Glouer, and Water-bearer, the Husbandman, Dyer, and Saylor, ſith your Trades haue but petty ſlights, ſtand you with Maſter Vicar, you are like to help to giue in the Verdict: but for the Pedlar and the Tinker, they are two notable knaues, both of a haire, and both couſin Germans to the Diuell. For the Tinker, why, he is a drowſie, bawdy, drunken companion, that walkes vp and down with a trugge after him, and in ſtopping one hole, makes three: and if in conuenient place, hee meets with one alone, perhaps rifles him, or her, of all that euer they haue. A baſe knaue without feare of God, or loue to any one but to his Whore, and to himſelfe. The Pedlar as bad, or rather worſe, walketh the Countrey with his Dockſey at the leaſt, if hee haue not too his sports Dels, and Autem morts: hee paſſeth commonly through euery paire of Stocks, either for his Drunkennesſe, or his Lechery. And beſide, it is reported, you can lift or nip a young like a guire Coue, if you want pence, and that you carrie your packe but for a colour to ſhadow your other villanies. Well, howſoeuer, you are both Knaues, and ſo be togging. Well, quoth I, I ſuppoſe the Jury is almoſt full. I beleeue wee want not aboue three or foure perſons: Looke you where they come to make vp the number, and they ſhould be men of good diſpoſition, for they ſeeme to be all of the Countrey. As ſoone as they came to vs, I met them, and told them the matter, and they were content. The one ſaid, he was a Grazier; the other, a Farmer; the other, a Shepheard to them both. What thinke you of theſe three, quoth I? Marry, ſaith Velvet-breeches, two of them are honeſt men, but the other is a baſe knaue: but 'tis no matter, ſhuffle him in amongſt the reſt.

Nay,

Nay, by your leave (quoth Cloth-breeches) I will chuffle out these two, for they are the very Cormorants of the Country, and devoure the poore people with their monstrous exaction. And first I alledge against the Grasier, that hee forestalleth Pastures and Medow grounds for the feeding of his Cattell, and wringeth Leases of them out of poore mens hands, and in his buying of Cattell, he committeth great Usury, for if it prove a wet yeere, then he maketh havoke and selleth deare, if it be a dry yeere, then he buyeth cheape, and yet having Pasture, keepes them till he may come to his owne price: he knoweth as well as the Butcher by the seed of a Bullock, how much Tallow hee will yeeld, what his quarters will amount unto: what the Tanner will give for the Hide: Nay, what the Sowse-wives were able to make of the inwards: so that he sels it so deare to the Butcher, that he can scarce live of it: and therefore what subtilty the Butcher useth, commeth from the Grasier, so that I exempt him from the Quest as a bad member, and an ill friend to Cloth-breeches. And for you, quoth Farmer, you know how through you, covetous Landlords raise their rents: for if a poore man have but a plough land, if you see his Pastures beare good grasse, and is areable ground, good corne, and that he prospereth and goeth forward on it, and provideth and maintaineth his wife and servants honestly, then

Invidus alterius rebus macrescit opimis,
Vicinumque pecus grandius uber habet.

Then straight envie pricks the Farmer forward, and he bids the Landlord farre more than the poore man payes yeerely for it: so that if hee be a tenant at will, he puts him out to beg in the street: or when his Lease comes out, hee over-loads him in the fine, and thus blood-sucketh he the poore of his owne private profit. Besides, the base chuffe, if hee sees a forward yeere, and that Corne is like to bee plenty, then hee murmureth against God, and sweareth and protesteth hee shall be undone: respecting more the filling of his owne coffers by a Dearth, than the profit of his country by a generall plenty. Beside, Sir, may it please you, when new corne comes into the Market, who brings in to relieve the state? Not your masterships, but the poore Husbandman, that wants pence. For you keepe it till the backe end of the yeere, nay, you have your Garners which have corne of two or three yeere old, upon hope still of a deare yeere, rather letting

the Weasels eate it, then the poore should have it at any reasonable price. So that I conclude, you are a Cormorant of the Commonwealth, and a wretch that lives of the spoile of the needy, and so I leave you to iet with the Grasier. Marry for the Shepheard, unlesse it be that he killeth a Lambe now and then, and sayes the Fox stole him, I know little craft in his Budget, therefore let him be among the honest men of the Jury.

Well, Cloth-breeches (quoth I) you are very peremptory in your challenges, what say you? here come three or foure Citizens, will any of these serue turne? I cannot tell (quoth he) till I know their names and conditions. With that I stept afore the company, and enquired what they were: the eldest of them being a grave Citizen, said hee was a Grocer, the rest, his good and honest Neighbours, a Chandler, a Haberdasher, a Clothworker, and two strangers, one a Wallon, the other a Dutchman. How like you of these (quoth I) to Uelvet breeches? Well enough (quoth hee) for I am little acquainted with them, yet I know they favour me, because I have on a Sunday seene them all in their silkes. I marry (quoth Cloth-breeces) but they never get that bravery with honestie: for the Clothworker, his faults were laid open, before when we had the Draper in question: and therefore let him be packing. For you, Chandler, I like not of your trickes, you are too conversant with the Kitchen-stuffe wives: you, after your weeke or snaft is stiffened, you dip it in filthy drosse, and after give him a coat of good Tallow, which makes the Candles drop and waste away, to the great hinderance of the poore Worke-men that watch in the night. Beside, you pinch in your waights, and have false measures, and many other knaveries that I omit: but this be sure, you shall not meddle in my matter, neither the Haberdasher, for he trims up old Felts, and makes them very faire to the eye, and faceth and edgeth them neatly, and then hee turnes them away to such a simple man as I am: and so abuseth us with his coozenage. Beside, you buy gum'd Taffata, wherewith you line Hats, that will straight asunder as soone as it comes to the heat of a mans head. To bee briefe, I am not well skild in your knaveries; but indeed you are too subtill for poore Cloth-breeches: and therefore you shall be none of the Jury. Marry, the Grocer seemes an honest man, and I am content to admit of him, onely

take

take this as a caveat by the way, that you buy of the Garbellers of Spices, the refuse that they sift from the Merchant, and that you mixe againe and sell it to your Customers. Besides, in your beaten Spices, as in Pepper, you put in Bay-berries, and such drosse, and so wring the purse: but these are sleight causes, and so I overpasse them, and vouchsafe you to be of the Quest. But I pray you, what be these two honest men (quoth the Grocer?) The one a Dutchman, and a Shoomaker, the other a Frenchman, and a Millainer in Saint Martins and sels Shirts, Bands, Bracelets, Jewels, and such pretty toyes for Gentlewomen. Oh they be of Velvet breches acquaintance, Upstarts as well as hee, that have brought with them pride, and abuses into England: and first, to the Millainer: What toyes deviseth hee to feed the humor of the Upstart Gentleman withall, and of fond Gentlewomen, such Fannes, such Ruffes, such Brooches, such Bracelets, such Graundies, such Perriwigs, such Paintings, such Ruffes and Cuffes, as have almost made England as full of proud fopperies as Tyre and Sidon were: there is no Semster can make a Band or Shirt, so well as his wife: and why forsooth? because the filthy Queane weares a Cramice, and is a Frenchwoman forsooth: whereas our English women of the Exchange are both better workewomen, and will afford a better penny-worth. And so for the drunken Dutchman this Shoomaker, hee and such as hee is, abuseth the Common-wealth, and the poore mechanicall men and handicrafts men of London: for our new Upstart soles of Velvet-breches fraternitie, like nothing but that the outlandish Asse maketh. They like no Shooe so well as the Dutchman maketh, when our Englishmen passe them farre. And so for Chandlers, and all other occupations, they are wronged by the Dutch and French. And therefore sith the Commons hate them, they cannot be my friends, and therefore let them be launching to Flushing, for they shall bee no tryers of my Controversie. Well (quoth I) now I suppose the Jury is full, and wee see no more comming, let us call them, and see how many may wee have. So they appeared to their names as followeth:

The Names of the Iury to be impannelled.

1	Knight.	13	Cutler.
2	Esquire.	14	Plaisterer.
3	Gentleman.	15	Saylor.
4	Priest.	16	Ropemaker.
5	Printer.	17	Smith.
6	Grocer.	18	Glover.
7	Skinner.	19	Husbandman.
8	Dyer.	20	Shepheard.
9	Pewterer.	21	Waterman.
10	Sadler.	22	Waterbearer.
11	Ioyner.	23	Bellowes-mender.
12	Bricklayer.	24	Poet.

What, is it not possible, quoth I, to have one more to make up the foure and twenty? As I was thus speaking, I spyed afarre off, a certaine kind of an ouer worne Gentleman, attired in Velvet, and Sattin, but it was somewhat dropped and greazie, and Bootes on his legges, whose soles waxed thin, and seemed to complaine of their scanter, which treading thrift under his feete, had brought them unto that consumption: he walked not as other men, in the common beaten way, but came compassing Circumcirca, as if we had beene Devils, and he would draw a circle about us, and at every third step he looked backe, as if he were afraid of a Baily or Sergeant.

After him followed two pert Apple-squires: the one had a Murrey cloth Gowne on, faced before with gray Conny, and laid thicke on the sleeves with Lace, which he quaintly bare up, to shew his white Taffata hose, and blacke silke stockins, a huge Ruffe about his necke, wrapt on his great head like a Wicker-cage, a little Hat, with brimmes like the wings of a Doublet, wherein he wore a Jewell of glasse, as broad as the Chancery Seals. After him followed two boyes in Cloakes like Butterflies, carrying one of them his cutting sword of choller; the other his dancing Rapier of delight. His Camerade that bare him company, was a tolly light-timber'd Jacke-a-Napes, in a Sute of watchet Taffata, cut to the skinne, with a Cloake all to be dawbed with coloured Lace: both he and my gowned Brother, seemed by their pace, as if they had some suites to Monsieur Bootes. At length comming neere, I might discerne

discerne the first to be a Poet, the second, a Player, the third, a Musitian, alias, the Vsher of a Dancing-schoole. Well met, master Poet, quoth I, and welcome you friends also, though not so particularly knowne. So it is, though none of you three be Commonwealths men, yet vpon vrgent necessitie, we must bee forced to employ you. Wee have a Jury to bee impanelled immediatly, which one of you three must helpe to make vp, euen he which approoues himselfe the honestest man. They are all honest men, good fellowes, qd. Velvet breeches, therefore it is no great matter whether of them we chuse.

The Doctors doubt of that, quoth Cloth-breeches: for I am of a different opinion. This first, whom by his carelesse slouenly gate, at first sight, I imagined to be a Poet, is a waste-good, and an vnthrift; that he is borne to make the Tauernes rich, and himselfe a Begger. If he have forty pounds in his purse together, hee puts it not to vsurie, neither buyes Land nor Merchandise with it, but a moneths commoditie of Wenches, and Capons. Ten pound a supper. Why, 'tis nothing, if his plough goes, and his Inke-horne be cleare. Take one of them worth twenty thousand pound, and hang him. Hee is a King of his pleasure, and counts all other Boores and Peasants: that though they have money at command, yet know not like him how to dominere with it, to any purpose as they should. But to speake plaine, I thinke him an honest man, if hee would but liue within his compasse, and generally no mans foe but his owne, therefore I hould him a man fit to bee of my Jury. Nay, quoth Velvet-breeches, I have more mind to these two: for this Poet is a proud fellow, that because he hath a little witt in his budget, will contemne and mislike vs that are the common sort of Gentlemen, and thinke we are beholding to him, if hee doe but bestow a faire looke vpon vs. The Player, and the Vsher of the Dancing-schoole are plaine honest humble men, that for a penny, or an old cast sute of apparell, will do any thing. Quoth Cloth-breeches, you say troth, they are but too humble; for they be so lowly, that they be base-minded; I meane, not in their lookes, nor apparell, for so they be Peacocks, and painted Asses, but in their course of life: for they care not how they get crownes, I meane, how basely so they have them; and yet of the two, I hold the Player to be the better Christian, although he is in his owne imagination, too full of selfe-liking, and selfe-love, and is vn-

fit to be of the Jury, though I hide and conceale his faults and foppery, in that I have bene merrie at his sports: onely this I must say, that such a plaine countrey-fellow as my selfe, they bring in as clownes and soles to laugh at in their play, whereas they get by us, and of our almes the proudest of them all doth live. Well, to bee briefe, let him trot to the Stage, for he shall be none of the Jury. And for you master Usher of the dancing schole, you are a leader into all misrule; you instruct Gentlemen to order their feet, when you drive them to misorder their manners; you are a bad fellow, that stand upon your tricks and capers, till you make young Gentlemen caper without their Lands. Why, Sir, to be flat with you, you live by your leggs, as a Juggler by his hands: you are given over to the pompes and vanities of the world. And to be short you are a keeper of misrule, and a lewd fellow, and you shall bee none of the Quest. Why then, quoth I, you are both agreed, that the Poet is he that must make up the fourt and twentith. They answered both, Yee, and none but he. Then I calling them all together, bade them lay their hands on the booke. And first, I cald the Knight, and after the rest, as they followed in order; then I gave them the charge thus:

Worshipfull Sir, with the rest of the Jury, whom we have elected of choise honest men, whose consciences will deale uprightly in this Controversie, you and the rest of your company are here upon your oath, and oathes to inquire whether Cloth-breeches have done disseison unto Velvet-breeches, yea, or no, in or about London, in putting him out of franke tenement, wronging him of his right by imbolishing his credit, if you finde that Cloth-breeches hath done Velvet Breeches wrong, then let him bee set in his former estate and allow him reasonable dammages. Upon this they laid their hands upon the Booke, and were sworne, and departed to the scrutinie of the offender by inquirie amongst themselves, not stirring out of our sight, or staying long, but straight returned, and the Knight for them as the formost said thus: So it is, that we have with equitie and conscience considered of this Controversie betweene Velvet breeches, and Cloth-breeches, as touching the prerogatives of them both, which are most worthy to be rightly resident, and have seisen in franke tenement here in England; and we doe finde that Cloth breeches is by many hundred yeares more ancient, experience Brute

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an inhabitant in this Iland, and that he hath bene in Diebus illis, a companion to Kings, an equall with the Nobility, a friend to Gentlemen, and Yeomen, and a Patron of the poore, a true subiect, a good housekeeper, and generally as honest as he is ancient: Whereas Velvet-breeches is an Vpstart come out of Italy, begot of Pride, nursed up by Selfe-love, and brought into this country by his companion Newfangleneſſe, that he is but of late time, a raiſer of rents, and an enemy in the Commonwealth, and one that is not any way to be preferd in equity before Cloth-breeches: therefore in generall verdict wee adiudge Cloth-breeches to have done him no wrong, but that he hath lawfully claim'd his Title of franke tenement, & in that we appoint him for ever to be reſident. At this Verdict pronounced by the Knight, all the standers by clapt their hands, and gave a shout: whereat I started, and awaked; for I was in a dreame and in my bed, and so rose up, and writ in a merry vaine what you have heard.

FINIS.